

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 1014 taken on Tuesday, October 30, 2007, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 1001, I was unavoidably detained and missed the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

CRISIS IN DARFUR

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of resolutions H. Res. 573, H. Res. 726, and H. Res. 740, which are all related to the situation in Darfur. The continuing genocide in Darfur is an attack on humanity and I would like to take this moment to urge my colleagues in Congress and in the International Community to support ending this genocide.

I am in support of H. Res. 573. This resolution calls for recognizing and commending the efforts of the United States public and advocacy groups to raise awareness about and help end the worsening humanitarian crisis and genocide in Darfur, Sudan. If it were not for the U.S. public and advocacy groups that have brought awareness of the violence and displacement that has occurred in Darfur, this horrific conflict might have gone unnoticed. Experts estimate some 400,000 people have died and over 2.5 million people within the Darfur region have been made homeless since this conflict began in 2003. Too many people of Darfur are in extreme poverty and they rely heavily on international aid for survival. Refugee camps have experienced atrocities, rape, and physical violence, which is making these supposedly safe havens unsafe. Even humanitarian groups are suffering from deteriorating conditions and attacks, which has caused several NGOs to leave.

I agree with H. Res. 726, which calls on the President of the United States and the international community to take immediate steps to respond to and prevent acts of rape and sexual violence against women and girls in Darfur, Sudan, eastern Chad and the Central African Republic. During war women are too

often the victims of rape and sexual violence, which is often used systematically as a weapon of intimidation, humiliation, terror and ethnic cleansing. Being a victim of rape or sexual violence is one of the worst human rights violations there is. Women in these areas can hopefully be protected if the President of the United States develops within the United States Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development a Women and Girls of Darfur Initiative to improve assistance to victims and potential victims of rape and sexual violence in the areas called for by the resolution.

I fully support H. Res. 740. This resolution condemns in the strongest terms the attacks on African Union peacekeepers that occurred in Haskanita, Darfur, Sudan on September 29, 2007. This ambush by Darfur rebels killed ten peacekeepers; seven Nigerian peacekeepers and three other soldiers from Mali, Senegal and Botswana. Several other soldiers were wounded and fifty soldiers are still missing. This attack is considered the worst on AMIS peacekeepers since the deployment in July 2004. It is time to hold the perpetrators of these hateful acts accountable for their inhumane actions.

Madam Speaker, I support these bills because the people of Darfur need help. Too many lives have been taken; too many women have been sexually violated. These bills help send a clear message to the Sudanese government and the Darfur rebel groups that we will not continue to allow these crimes to happen on our watch. It is time to end this genocide.

TRIBUTE TO VELMA ALLEN

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Velma Allen as she retires from Mott Children's Health Center. Dr. Allen is the President and Chief Executive Officer and will retire on December 31. A dinner in her honor will be held on November 8 in Flint, MI.

Dr. Allen began her career as an English teacher in Mississippi. She moved to Michigan and became the Supervisor of Secondary Special Education with the Grand Rapids School System. She served as the Director of Special Education with the Lansing Schools from 1977 through 1981. She moved to Flint and was program officer for the C.S. Mott Foundation from 1981 to 1984. After serving as the Superintendent of the Michigan School of the Blind, Velma started to work at the Mott Children's Health Center. She has spent the last 17 years working to improve the care for the children of Genesee County who have special health or developmental problems.

Under her leadership, the C.S. Mott Children's Health Center has expanded its role in

Genesee County. Working with the Genesee Intermediate School District, the Center has implemented four school-based health centers offering multiple services to elementary, middle school, and high school students and offer dental health screening and prevention in elementary schools. The Center works with the Cedar Street Children's Center and the Child Welfare Society of Flint to offer mental health prevention services. She has added a fifth pediatric dental resident and partnered with the University of Michigan Dental School to offer an Advanced Education in General Residency resident. The Center also has implemented a child obesity prevention program and offers a 2-week summer camp.

Working with community allies she has advocated on behalf of children at both the state and national level. Recognizing that the life of the larger community has an affect on children, Dr. Allen works with various organizations to improve the quality of life. She is a Commissioner with the Michigan Commission for the Blind, a Board Member for the Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health, a Member of the Genesee County Community Collaborative, a Board Member of the "Ready, Set, Grow!" Passport Program, a Board Member of Priority Children, the Vice Chair of the Community Foundation of Greater Flint, a member of the Flint Journal Community Advisory Committee, a Board Member of United Way of Genesee County, and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Dr. Velma Allen for her work on behalf of the children in Genesee County. I wish her the best as she retires from the C.S. Mott Children's Health Center.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 1013 taken on Tuesday, October 30, 2007, had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 1012 taken on Monday, October 29, 2007, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 1002, I was unavoidably detained and missed the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

RECOGNIZING ANNIVERSARIES OF
MASS MOVEMENT FOR SOVIET
JEWISH FREEDOM AND FREE-
DOM SUNDAY RALLY FOR SO-
VIET JEWRY

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to throw my endorsement behind a resolution of great import—one that highlights the struggle of Jewish freedom in the former Soviet Union and pays tribute to one of the great civil rights movements of the last century. The will and forbearance of man and woman is best evinced when they are faced with adversity. Victims to a repressive anti-Zionist state that stripped its Jewish citizens of their rights to emigrate, be autonomous, and engage in religious prerogatives, Soviet Jewry channeled the strength of its community into one, harmonious dissenting voice. That takes awe-inspiring courage, and it more than merits our recognition today.

Only two decades have passed since a full quarter of a million of our frustrated brothers and sisters marched on Washington, demonstrating remarkable solidarity in numbers and unmatched political resolve. Only two decades before that, the seeds of focused defiance were being sown, a movement young in age but ripe at heart. And now, four decades later, the legacy of that effort has come to brilliant fruition. A renaissance of Jewish culture has cemented itself in the modern-day consciousness of the Russian people—and that is an exceptionally good thing.

Let us echo that spirit of unity, camaraderie, fraternity, and in one voice, honor their memories that inspire and move us to this day. Mazel Tov, my friends.

HONORING DR. HESHAM GAYAR

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Dr. Hesham Gayar, the outgoing President of the Genesee County Medical Society. Dr. Gayar is to be honored at the annual President's Ball this Saturday, November 3rd.

Dr. Gayar studied medicine at the Alexandria Medical School. He completed residency at St. Vincent's Hospital and Medical Center in New York, and M.D. Anderson in Houston, where he was chief resident from 1985 to

1986. He completed a Fellowship in Clinical Oncology and Pediatric Oncology at Ohio State University Hospital. Relocating to Michigan, Dr. Gayar currently serves as the Chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology at McLaren Regional Medical Center and the Medical Director of Radiation Oncology at Owosso Memorial Cancer Center.

Over the years Dr. Gayar has served as a delegate to the Michigan State Medical Society from the Genesee County Medical Society, and as the Chair of the Board of the Community Wide Hospital Oncology program. He is the principal investigator for the Radiation Therapy Oncology group, works with the Southwest Oncology group, and the National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel project. He is also the former President of the Islamic Medical Association.

Dr. Gayar is committed to improving the quality of life in the larger community. Governor Granholm appointed him to the Board of the Commission of Arab Chaldean American Affairs. He serves on the Board of the American Arab Heritage Council of Flint, the Flint Islamic Center, and the Grand Blanc Islamic Center, he is the former Chair of the Genesee Academy Board of Directors, and is a former board member of the Islamic American University. In 2006 the American Arab Heritage Council named him "Physician of the Year." Dr. Gayar is married to Randa and they have four children, Omar, Adam, Lena and Kareem.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in applauding Dr. Hesham Gayar for his leadership to the Genesee County Medical Society. Both physicians and patients have benefited from his compassion and steadfastness. He brings empathy, dignity, and responsibility to every role he assumes. I wish him the best as he continues his service to the Flint community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 1011 taken on Monday, October 29, 2007, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 1003, I was unavoidably detained and missed the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

SMALL BUSINESS CONTRACTING
PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 3867) to update and expand the procurement of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes:

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 3867, Small Business Contracting Procurement Improvements Act of 2007.

Among the many improvements, this bill modernizes programs to increase opportunity to disadvantaged businesses that do not have proper access to the \$410 billion federal marketplace.

This bill expands procurement opportunities for service-disabled veteran-owned businesses; a group that currently receives only a small fraction of their contracting goal. Further, it creates penalties for misrepresentation of a service-disabled veteran owned business classification and adopts a roadmap for providing information, advice and training to service-disabled veterans as prescribed by President. Finally, it provides discretion to contracting officers in cases that must now be set aside for HUBZones but that could be used for service-disabled veteran-owned businesses.

Additionally, the bill modernizes the 8(a) Business Development Program. This program is to single most important vehicle for minority business participation in federal contracting. The 8(a) program has contributed to the development of over 20,000 firms including many in Texas over the past two decades, and these firms have received almost \$100 billion in federal contracts.

Over 9,000 firms are currently participating in the 8(a) program. More than half of all federal minority business contracting is accomplished through the 8(a) program. Despite these impressive statistics, the program has not been revamped since 1988.

Earlier this year, I joined my colleague Rep. SILVESTRE REYES in sponsoring H.R. 1611, the 8(a) Modernization Act which was incorporated into this legislation.

I would like to thank the Chairwoman, Ms. NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ for her work not only for this legislation but also her long time advocacy for our Nation's small businesses.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

TRIBUTE TO DR. RUTH L.
GOTTESMAN

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Dr. Ruth L. Gottesman and to congratulate her on becoming the first woman and the first faculty member to be elected Chairperson of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine's Board of Overseers.

As a premiere institution for medical education, basic research and clinical investigation, the Albert Einstein College of Medicine has produced more than 7,000 of our Nation's foremost clinicians, biomedical scientists, and medical educators. Among its pioneering educational initiatives, Einstein was among the first of the major medical schools to integrate bedside experience with learning, bringing first-year students into contact with patients and linking classroom study to case experience.

Dr. Ruth Gottesman has served as a distinguished faculty member of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine for over 30 years. In addition, Dr. Gottesman was a founding director of the Fisher Landau Center for the Treatment of Learning Disabilities, a division of Einstein's Children's Evaluation and Rehabilitation Center established to provide interdisciplinary services to individuals of all ages. Her exemplary effort on behalf of those with learning disabilities has earned her the respect and admiration of colleagues and friends alike. In her career, she serves the most vulnerable in our society with the highest level of compassion and commitment.

Dr. Gottesman has balanced this distinguished career with an equally impressive family life. Married to David for 57 years, she has also been a loving mother to three children—Bob, Alice, and Bill—and grandmother to seven grandchildren—Ben, Sarah, Alan, Clara, Zachary, Eleanor, and Jessica. While she and her family share a passion for traveling and learning about other people and places, Dr. Gottesman remains committed to a variety of causes in her own community including various charitable organizations, schools, and museums.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize my good friend Dr. Ruth Gottesman for an unparalleled career fighting for those who are unable to fight for themselves, and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring her tremendous accomplishments.

IN APPRECIATION OF THE LIFE AND WORK OF THE HILL'S JOSEPH CRAPA

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of a true patriot and committed public servant, the late Joseph Crapa. He boasted a litany of high posts and honors to his name, but it was as Chief of Staff to Senator CHARLES SCHUMER that he so ably served my native New York. Staffers like Mr. Crapa are the backbone of Capitol Hill, the too-often unsung movers and shakers who work feverishly on behalf of the American people.

Known as a fast-talking guy from Brooklyn, Mr. Crapa's magnetism drew a series of glowing compliments—solid, wise, shrewd. He loved politics and government, but remained loyal to his unwavering moral core. He was an intellectual powerhouse, relentless in his defense of the little guy, but with the practical political know-how to get things done. As the executive director of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, his last post, he agitated for a cause near and dear to his heart: the battle for religious freedom worldwide.

He is today—and always—remembered and appreciated as a man of conviction and a wealth of knowledge.

"SALT-OF-THE-EARTH" STAFFER CRAPA
MOURNED ON HILL

Joseph Crapa, the executive director of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, died Thursday from cancer at the age of 63.

Crapa, who had led the commission since 2002, previously worked for 25 years in various Capitol Hill-related jobs, including House committee offices, Member offices and in the Congressional relations shops of several executive branch agencies.

Immediately before coming to the commission, Crapa worked as chief of staff to Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.).

"Joe was a pure salt-of-the-earth human being," Schumer wrote in an e-mail. "To know him was to love him."

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-N.Y.) noted in a statement that she knew Crapa during his service in the Senate and the Clinton administration. She lauded Crapa's "indomitable spirit and determination" during the fight to secure funding for New York in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Crapa also served as counsel and staff director in the office of Rep. David Obey (D-Wis.) for 10 years, before leaving in 1997 to become associate administrator for congressional and intergovernmental affairs at the Environmental Protection Agency.

Obey said he was dubious when he first interviewed Crapa for a job in 1987.

"I thought, 'There's no way in God's green earth I can work with this fast-talking guy from Brooklyn,'" Obey said. "He was about three times as intense as I was. But his solidity, wisdom, and shrewdness came through, and we ended up not only working together for 10 years, but becoming close friends."

Obey said Crapa was a "superb example" of the importance of the role staffers play on the Hill.

"There are a lot of people who never serve in elected office—staffers and people in various agencies—who love this country, are dedicated to doing things right and to advancing the cause of regular people," Obey said. He said Crapa "loved politics, he loved government, he had a moral core to everything he did. He was an intellectual and, at the same time, a hard-nosed practicing pol in the best sense of the word."

In a statement released by USCIRF on Thursday, Chairman Michael Cromartie said Crapa "had an unwavering, principled commitment to . . . protecting religious freedom worldwide." He and Vice Chairwoman Preeta Bansal both commented on Crapa's "sharp political instincts," which Barisal said were "crucial to him in this sensitive area."

Over the course of his career, Crapa worked as the top congressional relations official at the EPA, the Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Agency for International Development, and in the No. 2 spot in the Department of Commerce's congressional relations office.

He also spent time at the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, where he was the executive director of the Speaker's Club, and as vice president at lobby shop Dutko and Associates. For 6 years during his time in Obey's office and at the EPA, Crapa taught part-time as adjunct professor of government at Georgetown University. He was a John C. Stennis Congressional fellow in 1995–1996.

Crapa was born Dec. 16, 1943, in Brooklyn, N.Y. He received his bachelor's degree from St. John's University in New York City and went on to receive a master's degree from Duke and a Ph.D. from the University of Arizona; all three degrees were in British and American literature. He married Barbara Vaskis in 1967; the couple had one son, Judd, and two grandsons, Sebastian and Baird.

A memorial service for Crapa is scheduled for 1 p.m. today at St. Peter's Church on Capitol Hill.

JAMES P. CHEEVER 100TH BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate James P. Cheever, who will be celebrating his 100th birthday on Sunday, November 4, 2007, at Tony Reception Palace, in Hialeah, FL. Many of his family, friends, and church friends will be in attendance to celebrate this momentous occasion. He was born on November 7, 1907, in Sylvania, Georgia. He is the middle child of six siblings, with one remaining sister, Ruby Cheever.

He was educated in the Sylvania school system. At the age of 22, he met and married Edna Mae Striggles. They were married on December 22, 1929. They shared 58 years of marriage until her death in 1987. Their union was blessed with four children, James P. Cheever, Jr., Henry Richmond Cheever, and Margie Beatrice Mayes. Their daughter Fronita Cheever, died at a very young age.

He has 10 grandchildren, Gregory Cheever, Gail Washington, Glenda Jameson, Anthony Cheever, Aundrea Mayes, Carey Cheever, LaEatrice McMurray, Laketia Cheever, Vincent Cheever and Tonya Linde. He has 25 great-grandchildren and 7 great-great grandchildren.

As many others did during the early 1900s, he earned a living by farming land in Georgia. Although farming provided a modest living, he and his wife wanted a better quality of life for their family. In November of 1947, he moved his family to Miami, Florida.

After arriving in Miami, he worked several odd jobs to support his family and he started working for a major construction firm, Benidick and Jordan Construction Company, in 1950. He was the only African-American man hired at that time to tie steel for the company and became the top man for the construction company.

In 1962, he left the construction field to work for the Dade County Public School system. During his employment with DCPS, he worked as Lead Custodian at Brownsville Junior High School and Carol City Elementary. He retired from DCPS in June of 1973. After retirement, he launched his own Lawn Service and was known by many for the meticulous lawn care he provided his customers.

James is a God-fearing man who dedicated his life to the Lord at a very young age. While living in Georgia he was a member of Lawton Grove Missionary Baptist Church. When he relocated to Miami, he moved his membership to New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Liberty City, where he became a deacon on January 14, 1954, under the leadership of Rev. James E. Brown.

Several years later he moved his membership to become a founding member of Greater New Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, located in Brownsville, under Pastor Rosco Jackson. He still attends services regularly and currently serves as the oldest deacon on the deacon board, under the leadership of Rev. Sherman Mungin.

James and his wife bought their first home in Florida, in what was known as Brownsville, in 1956. The property was acquired by the County, to build a public park, in 1969. They

then bought and moved to the home in which he still resides, located at 3801 N.W. 186th Street, Miami Gardens, Florida.

As the patriarch of his family, he loves attending family functions to see the four generations of his children. He is still very active, he enjoys fishing at the lake, vegetable gardening and watching baseball games. He always has a quick smile and something witty to say. He is a man of good report, full of spirit and the wisdom of years.

Madam Speaker and my colleagues, I ask that you join me in honoring James P. Cheever today. I hope we all have the good fortune to live such a full life as he has. He is a great man and his family and friends are very proud of all of these achievements.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF JACK FUCHS

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize long-time Tempe resident, chemistry professor, professional tympanist and friend: Jack Fuchs.

Jack Fuchs is a remarkable person with a lifetime of achievements. He recently retired after 55 years of teaching at my alma mater, Arizona State University. Those of us in the ASU community believe that he is the longest-serving faculty member in the history of the university.

After serving in Europe during World War II, he arrived back in the States 62 years ago today. Jack wasted no time in pursuing a doctoral degree at the University of Illinois, which he earned in 1950. Two short years later, he packed up his car and set out for a teaching job in Tempe, which was located in foreign territory for an Illinois native—the deserts of Arizona.

Rather than returning home, the Fuchs thrived and put down roots. In addition to his teaching duties, Jack played professionally as the principal tympanist with the Phoenix Symphony for 25 years. He shared the stage with the likes of Jack Benny, Pablo Casals and Andres Segovia, just to name a few. He extended his musical career by performing with the Sun Cities Symphony Orchestra for almost 20 years more, until just 5 years ago.

Jack also managed to keep his friends and fellow faculty members on their toes with a mean game of tennis. Playing with legendary coaches like Frank Kush, Bobby Winkles and Ned Wulk did not dim his competitive drive to win.

These other accomplishments might give the impression that his professional life took a back seat. Nothing could be further from the truth. Among other posts, Jack served as executive officer of the chemistry department for 14 years, as well as national president of the Society for Applied Spectroscopy.

But as a fellow teacher, I know Jack's true love was being in the classroom. Every year for almost 40 years he offered summer programs to young students to share with them the love and excitement of chemistry he discovered himself as a young boy. Who wouldn't love to spend their summers exploring the

wonders of infrared and ultraviolet absorption spectroscopy or modern industrial spectroscopy?

Even today, after 55 years in the classroom, Jack maintains an office at the university and can be found, as always, involved with students 2 to 3 days a week.

I offer my sincere thanks and congratulations on a job well done.

TRIBUTE TO THE ASIAN-AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with sincere admiration that I recognize the Asian-American Medical Association, which will be hosting their 31st annual dinner and charity ball on Saturday, November 3, 2007, at the Avalon Manor in Hobart, Indiana. Each year, the Asian-American Medical Association pays tribute to prominent, outstanding citizens and organizations for their contributions to the community. In recognition of their efforts, these honorees are awarded the prestigious Crystal Globe Award each year at this annual banquet.

The Asian-American Medical Association has always been a great asset to northwest Indiana. Its members have selflessly dedicated themselves to providing quality medical service to the residents of Indiana's First Congressional District, and they have always demonstrated exemplary service through their many cultural, scholastic, and charitable endeavors.

At this year's charity ball, the Asian-American Medical Association will present the Crystal Globe Award to the Indiana University School of Medicine—Northwest. Founded in 1972, the Indiana University School of Medicine—Northwest, which began with only four faculty members, has become the largest regional campus of the Indiana University School of Medicine outside of Bloomington and Indianapolis. Located on the campus of Indiana University—Northwest in Gary, Indiana, the school has received acclaim for its curriculum and innovation on a local, national, and international level. In particular, the Problem Based Learning Curriculum, which uses patient case studies as their primary educational tool, has received numerous accolades for the university since its inception in 1990. Since its founding in 1972 under the leadership of Dr. Panayotis Iatridis, the contributions of the Indiana University School of Medicine—Northwest, both in the education of its students and its commitment to the future, have been a source of pride and hope for the First Congressional District.

While the past 35 years have shown immense advancements in the school's curriculum, the future appears even brighter for the Indiana University School of Medicine—Northwest. Under the leadership of Dr. Patrick Bankston, the school has made plans to expand class size and to add the final two years of medical education to the curriculum. Once this plan becomes a reality, which may occur as early as 2011, northwest Indiana will, for the first time, allow students to complete their medical education within the region.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending the Asian-American Medical Association, as well as this year's Crystal Globe Award recipient, the Indiana University School of Medicine—Northwest, for their outstanding contributions to medicine and to the community. Their members' unwavering commitment to improving the quality of life for the people of northwest Indiana and throughout the world is truly inspirational. For these reasons, they are to be praised, and I am proud to serve as their Representative in Washington, D.C.

SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of International Education Week, which is sponsored by the Departments of Education and State. International Education Week reminds us of the value of learning foreign languages and learning about foreign cultures and traditions.

In an increasingly interdependent global community, it is important for America's students to be students of the world, and to have the opportunity to study abroad. While such cultural exchanges benefit the individual, they are equally important for America's international competitiveness and national security. Still, a survey from the Institute of International Education shows that during the 2004/2005 school year, fewer than one percent of American undergraduates studied abroad. This event reminds us that we can and must do better.

This week also reminds us of the importance of foreign language study. Studies have shown that early exposure to foreign language education in elementary school has been found to improve children's thinking processes, which help student achievement across all subject areas.

It is my great hope that this year, from November 12 through November 16, all those who recognize the importance of American involvement in the world will take part in International Education Week.

IN RECOGNITION OF RON MAY

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize State Senator Ron May and the contributions he has made to my hometown of Colorado Springs and the State of Colorado during his 27 years as a public servant. Senator May, who has honorably represented the 10th Senate District of Colorado since 2001, will officially step down today, Wednesday, October 31, 2007. A principled, capable legislator and a likeable, good-natured man, Senator May will be sincerely missed by those who served with him in the State Capitol, including myself, and the residents of Colorado Springs.

Senator May's lifelong dedication to public service began when he joined the Air Force in 1953. During his twenty-year military career, Senator May gained extensive knowledge in the areas of computer programming and technology. This training shaped his post-military career as he was a charter member of the United States Internet Council, and served on Colorado's Information Management Commission as well as the Multi-Use Network Service.

In the State legislature, Senator May's technological expertise was invaluable, as was his dedication to transportation infrastructure. Senator May worked tirelessly to create funding within the budget that was devoted solely to Colorado roadways, an action that demonstrated his commitment to responsible government spending.

Today I honor Senator May's selfless career and express my gratitude, as a resident of Colorado Springs, for the positive things he has done for our city, county, and State. He was a reliable vote for and a proponent of the conservative values upon which our country was founded. Although I am sad to see his public career come to an end, I know that we will continue to benefit from Senator May's legacy. I wish him and his wife, Onella, their fine children, and grandchildren, all the best in his new career and life.

HONORING FIRE CHIEF LUTHER
FINCHER

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, Charlotte, NC is losing one of its most dedicated public servants with the retirement of Fire Chief Luther Fincher after 45 years. I have personally known and worked with Luther for over 24 years. His professional achievements are many—including managing our Homeland Security Programs and the Urban Area Security Initiative. Luther was instrumental in the development of our ALERT team and led it with distinction. It was his dedication and experience that made it a reality and has helped Charlotte to be recognized as the third most prepared city in the country for emergency management.

He is a charter member and past president of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and has represented this organization all over the world, as well as playing a role in passing significant fire legislation on a federal level. He was also instrumental in establishing the four-year program on Fire Engineering Technology at UNC-Charlotte.

His awards and accomplishments are many, but I am most proud of the fact that Luther Fincher is one of the most loyal, sincere, family-oriented men I have ever known. I am proud to call him friend.

He is retiring as Fire Chief, but I know he will continue to lend his expertise to our city and the Nation.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL SPINA
BIFIDA MONTH

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, as Co-Chair of the Congressional Spina Bifida Caucus I rise today to recognize October as National Spina Bifida Month. Currently, more than 70,000 people in the United States live with Spina Bifida, the Nation's most common permanently disabling birth defect. Each October we honor these Americans during National Spina Bifida Month, but we must be steadfast in our efforts year round to prevent and reduce suffering from this devastating birth defect.

Spina Bifida is a neural tube defect that occurs in the first month of pregnancy when the spinal column does not close completely. An average of eight babies a day are born with Spina Bifida or a similar birth defect of the brain and spine. Currently, approximately 3,000 pregnancies each year are affected by Spina Bifida; however, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, estimates that up to 70 percent of Spina Bifida and other neural tube defects could be prevented if all women of childbearing age consumed 400 micrograms of folic acid daily, prior to becoming pregnant.

Fortunately, the CDC's National Spina Bifida Program—which I helped to create with my colleague and caucus co-chair Representative BART STUPAK—plays a critical role in addressing both sides of the Spina Bifida equation—preventing the birth defect and providing support and quality-of-life enhancement for people living with it. I am proud that the National Spina Bifida Program—in its more than 4 years of existence—is making a significant difference in the lives of people with Spina Bifida. Now patients, parents, health professionals, and caregivers have the information and resources they need to ensure that quality-of-life is maximized for all who live with this condition and that we are doing our best to reduce the number of Spina Bifida affected pregnancies through education and awareness of women about the importance of their consumption of folic acid prior to becoming pregnant.

I want to express my deep gratitude to my colleagues on the House Appropriations Committee who allocated \$5.535 million for the National Spina Bifida Program in the FY 2008 Labor-Health and Human Services-Education, LHHS, bill. As members of the House and Senate LHHS Subcommittees work to reconcile the differences between their bills, I urge my colleagues to cede to the House allocation and help ensure that the National Spina Bifida Program receives adequate funding in the final FY 2008 LHHS measure so it can sustain and expand its important initiatives.

In addition, I hope my colleagues will support the report language from the Senate FY 2008 Agriculture Appropriations measure which urges the FDA to review—and hopefully expand—current folic acid fortification standards so that we can continue to make strides in reducing the number of preventable neural tube defects.

Lastly, I wish to thank the Spina Bifida Association, SBA, for playing a critical role in

helping those living with and affected by this debilitating birth defect. Founded in 1973, SBA is the nation's only organization solely dedicated to advocating on behalf of the Spina Bifida community. Through its nearly 60 chapters in more than 125 communities, the SBA brings expectant parents together with those who have a child with Spina Bifida. This interaction helps to answer questions and concerns, but most importantly it lends much needed support and provides hope and inspiration.

I thank the SBA for its partnership and its commitment to ensuring that we are doing all that we can to reduce and prevent suffering from Spina Bifida. I encourage my colleagues to join with me in recognizing October as National Spina Bifida Month and in educating our constituents about the importance of folic acid consumption among women of child-bearing age. Together, with the SBA, we can help prevent Spina Bifida.

A TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH SHELL
CARR

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional and caring woman on this day of her retirement, Elizabeth Shell Carr. Elizabeth Carr, a New York licensed Clinical Social Worker, spent her first years in Virginia with the Harlem Veteran's Center as a Military Sexual Trauma Counselor for combat and non-combat veterans.

Elizabeth Carr recalls one of her most gratifying experiences as the organizer of a successful SPA Treatment Day which included breakfast, lunch, and the dissemination of information by the Mayor's Office of Veteran Affairs. Nearly 50 women attended, each of them receiving a gift, as well as a certificate of appreciation from New York State Senator Velmanette Montgomery for their service to our country.

For the past 2 years, Elizabeth Carr enjoyed working closer to home at Brooklyn's VA Medical Center. She is a former member of the Social Work Education committee, assisted with annual programs for "Women in Government" and Black History Month at the VA. She received a monetary performance award for her outstanding contribution to the Employee Assistance Program.

Elizabeth Carr is a clinician with more than 25 years experience in health and mental health. She was previously employed with St. Luke's Roosevelt Medical Center and was also an adjunct professor of Graduate Social Work at both Columbia University and New York University.

Elizabeth Carr is a long time resident of the Willoughby Walk Cooperative Apartments in Brooklyn. She is proud of her close knit community and is actively involved. She has served many years as floor captain within the co-op. She is also active in her church, Emmanuel Baptist. She was co-editor of the church newspaper, member and chairperson for the Missions and Benevolence Ministry, and committee member for the church and cooperative's commemorative anniversaries in both 2006 and 2007.

Elizabeth Carr has many plans for this new phase of her life including completing a journal and a book of poetry, visiting family and friends, and traveling.

Madam Speaker, Elizabeth Shell Carr has given a lot to America's veterans, her church, and her community. I would like to recognize all of her accomplishments and achievements and congratulate her on her retirement.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderful woman.

TRIBUTE TO DEXTER AND BIRDIE
YAGER

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great couple who are a wonderful example of what is right with America. Dexter and Birdie Yager are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. Sadly, in America, it has become a rare thing for two people to stay together this long.

They are the proud parents of seven kids. The Yager family is extremely close—even working in a very successful business together. They exemplify achieving the American dream through hard work, and they demonstrate the love of a strong family who are there to help each other and others daily. I wish them many more happy years!

RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING
EFFORTS TO RAISE AWARENESS
ABOUT AND HELP END THE
WORSENING HUMANITARIAN CRI-
SIS AND GENOCIDE IN DARFUR,
SUDAN

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 29, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 573 and to commend grassroots and advocacy groups across the country for their powerful voices and invaluable efforts to raise awareness about the deepening humanitarian crisis in Darfur. This resolution will honor these groups for their hard work and urge the government to use its influence to halt the killing of innocent people in Darfur. Local communities continue to insist that the international community honor its responsibility to end the ongoing genocide in Darfur. We must heed their message, because it is one we cannot afford to ignore.

As a member of the House Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health, the Congressional, the Human Rights Caucus, and the Congressional Sudan Caucus, I share their immediate concern that our country must do everything it can to end the genocide in Darfur. More than 2.5 million Darfurians have been displaced from their homes and as many as 400,000 Darfurians have needlessly died

over the last four years as a result of violence, hunger, and disease.

The tragic events unfolding in Darfur have been felt intensely by local communities across the world. The strongest efforts to end the genocide will grow from the concerns of American citizens who can no longer sit quietly by while the atrocities in Sudan continue unabated. I am proud to represent the people of California's Sixth Congressional District, who are among the people most involved in stopping the genocide in Darfur since the crisis started.

Dear Sudan, now an international movement, began in my hometown of Petaluma in 2004. Their goal was to raise enough money from citizens of Petaluma to feed the refugees from Darfur for one day. Dear Sudan, Love Petaluma was so successful that other communities began organizing first locally, then spread across the Nation, and recently founded chapters in other countries across the world.

Dear Sudan, Love Marin has hosted educational forums and worked to develop a broad coalition of religious and community groups, encompassing the entire San Francisco Bay Area. Another group, Marin Interfaith, has been instrumental in spreading the message about the ongoing genocide to the religious community at large.

Additionally, students throughout the Sixth District have organized under Save Darfur, other national organizations, or on their own to help raise awareness for the crisis in Darfur by planning educational forums, rallying, and washing cars to raise funds for refugees. Just this past weekend, a student group in Santa Rosa held a car wash at a local market, and this December, a group of students from Terra Linda High School are planning a half-day conference on the genocide.

Groups like these demonstrate the best elements of our Nation, where people can come together to work for change in the world. It is with their energy and passion in mind that we must renew our commitment to end the genocide in Darfur.

INTRODUCTION OF THE STUDENT
LOAN AUCTION MARKET (SLAM)
ACT OF 2007

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, today, I am introducing the Student Loan Auction Market, SLAM, Act to continue the process of comprehensive, structural reform of the guaranteed student loan program. I believe this legislation would mark a critical step towards full market-based reform of the program and build on the reforms incorporated in the bipartisan College Cost Reduction and Access Act, which was recently signed into law by President Bush.

Specifically, the SLAM Act would further efforts to study and pilot several market-based reforms, including auction and asset-backed securities models. The politically-set subsidy rate to lenders is a fundamental flaw in the ar-

chaic structure of the guaranteed loan program. I believe we can all agree that some type of comprehensive, market-based reform will be necessary to ensure the long-term viability of the guaranteed loan program and ensure taxpayers' interests are better served.

My proposal would require the Secretaries of Education and the Treasury, in conjunction with the Government Accountability Office, GAO, the Office of Management and Budget, OMB, and the Congressional Budget Office, CBO, to conduct a joint planning study to determine which market-mechanism model for determining lender returns on guaranteed loans would best serve borrowers and taxpayers. This study would allow the experts to weigh the pros and cons of each proposal and determine which option would be most favorable for trial in the pilot program.

The pilot model will be selected by the Secretaries based on key criteria, such as ensuring sufficient loan availability to all participating institutions, minimizing administrative complexity to borrowers and lenders, and reducing the Federal cost if used on a program-wide basis. Within 6 months of enactment of this legislation, the study group would report its findings to Congress and begin implementation of a voluntary pilot program.

The voluntary, 2-year pilot program will begin in July 2008 and incorporate up to 10 percent of the guaranteed loan portfolio, increasing up to 20 percent in 2009. To encourage meaningful college participation in the pilot, any savings from the increased efficiency in the market model will be returned to the institution in the form of supplemental, need-based grant aid. Finally, GAO would conduct an independent evaluation of the pilot program and report its findings to Congress and the Secretaries within 120 days after termination of the pilot.

I believe that both the study and the pilot will provide critical and necessary information to Congress on how market-based reforms will impact the guaranteed loan program, before such reforms are implemented on a program-wide basis. This is a measured and responsible proposal that is based on voluntary participation by both colleges and lenders. It is something that both supporters and skeptics of the guaranteed loan program should embrace.

Although a much narrower and prescriptive auction pilot was included in the College Cost Reduction and Access Act, it has raised significant concerns among reform advocates, the Administration, and lenders about its feasibility and efficacy. My bill would not alter the Senate pilot that was agreed to in conference, but would require a second pilot by which to compare outcomes between the two models. It is a responsible and pragmatic addition to the current auction pilot.

I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation to further our understanding of market-based reform options. Congress should always encourage innovation in the administration of our student loan programs and continually strive to better serve students and taxpayers.

HONORING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, OFFICE OF STRUCTURE MAINTENANCE, AND INVESTIGATIONS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the dedicated professionals of the California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans) Office of Structure Maintenance and Investigations, (SM&I), which is marking its 80th anniversary of service to the people of the Golden State.

In 1927, while Babe Ruth swatted 60 home runs and Charles Lindbergh crossed the Atlantic Ocean solo, the State of California showed the wisdom and foresight to create a special branch of engineering experts to ensure the safety and reliability of its State highways and bridges.

Babe Ruth's home run mark fell in 1961 to the bat of Roger Maris and air travel over the "pond" became a routine occurrence. All the while, California's bridge maintenance program has stood the test of time and continues to deliver on its mission of providing Californians with a safe and dependable network of bridges carrying traffic and pedestrians over rivers, canyons, railroads, highways and city streets all across the Golden State.

That effort is still paying dividends for California and the Nation. More than 24,000 State and local agency bridges in California reliably serve millions of travelers and billions of dollars of commerce because of the ongoing care provided by Structure Maintenance and Investigations staff. These structures run the gamut from the majestic San Francisco-Oakland Bay and San Diego-Coronado bridges to the historic arch spans along the scenic Monterey Coast and the tens of thousands of unassuming concrete, steel and timber bridges dotting the California landscape. The safety and reliability of California's bridges has been instrumental in fueling one of the world's largest economies. More than 160 million vehicle trips are recorded on California's transportation system each day.

Caltrans Structure Maintenance and Investigations engineering personnel have conducted more than 650,000 routine inspections and thousands of special hydraulic, steel and underwater bridge inspections since 1927. They look for any signs of deterioration, fatigue or distress in bridge decks, superstructures and substructures, and the office has initiated tens of millions of dollars in repairs to ensure the safety and structural integrity of each public agency bridge in California.

Thanks to the ongoing dedication of the Structure Maintenance and Investigations professionals, no public agency bridge in California has ever collapsed due to neglect. The bridge inspection program pioneered by Structure Maintenance & Investigations has become the model for transportation agencies around the Nation and the world.

As part of its ongoing bridge maintenance program, Structure Maintenance and Investigations maintains a library of more than one million documents, some dating back more than 100 years, documenting the history of each public agency bridge in California.

Structure Maintenance and Investigations personnel have responded in a timely and heroic fashion to a myriad of natural and man-made disasters to protect public safety and complete any needed repairs to California's transportation system. While their efforts have been well chronicled in major disasters such as the 1989 Loma Prieta and 1994 Northridge earthquakes, SM&I personnel routinely answer the call to protect public safety. Such a case occurred last year in California's Sonoma County where two engineers risked their own safety to inspect the Highway 128 bridge over the rampaging Russian River near Geyserville. The engineers determined that the floodwaters had compromised the integrity of the bridge. They closed the structure and initiated a project that resulted in construction of a new bridge.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, it is appropriate for us to convey to all the dedicated professionals at the California Department of Transportation's Office of Structure Maintenance and Investigations the thanks of a grateful State for years of dedicated service ensuring the safety and reliability of California's transportation system.

RECOGNIZING THE SUBURBAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF SUMMIT, NEW PROVIDENCE, AND BERKELEY HEIGHTS, NEW JERSEY

HON. MIKE FERGUSON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Mr. FERGUSON. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Suburban Chamber of Commerce of Summit, New Providence, and Berkeley Heights, New Jersey as it celebrates its 90th Anniversary Gala this evening.

Since 1917, the Suburban Chamber of Commerce has been serving local business interests in and around the city of Summit. The Chamber is a fixture in the community, serving the interests of a wide variety of businesses and professionals, and providing valuable help to charitable organizations.

For the past 25 years the Chamber has overseen the Suburban Chambers Foundation, a charitable organization whose most important projects include scholarships for graduates of Summit, New Providence and Berkeley Heights high schools, and the Vest-A-Cop program which helps pay the costs of bullet-proof vests for local police officers.

The Chamber plays a key role in developing and bringing the community together. Each year it promotes numerous local events and charities, including the Summit Summer Street Fair, Santa's Arrival, First Night® Summit, the New Providence Christmas Walk, the Berkeley Heights Fall Festival, and May is Pride in Berkeley Heights.

I am proud that the 7th District that I represent is home to a fine organization so dedicated to fostering community, and I am pleased to honor the Chamber's 90th anniversary today.

TRIBUTE TO RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Randolph Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas for its innovation in water conservation. Roger Kiker, a civil engineer at the base, and his staff have saved taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars with their water conservation efforts. Their ingenuity in implementing an automatic meter reading (AMR) system and other infrastructure improvements have relieved some drought concerns in the San Antonio area, which relies solely on the Edwards Aquifer for water.

Mr. Kiker and the Randolph Air Force Base have proven to be leaders in water conservation and environmental protection. Randolph Air Force Base has reduced its water consumption by 6.1 percent and saved over 117,000,000 gallons of water this year by reusing water, planting drought tolerant landscaping, and fixing leaky meter infrastructure.

This week, Mr. Kiker and Randolph Air Force Base will receive a 2007 Presidential Award for Leadership in Federal Energy Management for water conservation. I commend them for their success in this project and hope others will follow suit in preserving our precious natural resources.

90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 147TH FIGHTER WING ELLINGTON FIELD, TEXAS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, in the United States, we have an incredible history, especially when it comes to our Armed Forces. Today, I want to recognize one of Houston's own, the 147th Fighter Wing/111th Fighter Squadron Texas Air National Guard out of Ellington Field, Texas. Their distinguished accomplishments during times of war and peace have made them well-known not only in Texas, but across the globe.

The 111th Aero Squadron met its beginnings at Kelly Field on Aug. 14, 1917. However, it was not until June 29, 1923, that the Squadron moved to its current location, Ellington Field. During the same year, they were designated a part of the Texas National Guard under the title of the 111th Observation Squadron, 36th Division.

Their emblem, which is one of the oldest in the United States Air Force, known as the Ace-In-The-Hole, signifies their interconnectedness to the State of Texas. Its immortal stance in Texas culture results from the grandfathering of the insignia at its inception. This motion works to prevent any future alteration to the historical design.

On Sept. 25, 1940, as the country was on the brink of World War II, the 111th became part of the federal war effort. Soon thereafter, the Squadron was reintroduced as part of the 68th Observation Group.

Following a short assignment protecting the U.S. border, they began preparations for overseas combat. During the war, their initial deployments led the Squadron to the Algerian beaches, in Operation Torch. In 1943, the 111th was chosen to take part in the Tunisian Campaign of the Army's II Corps. Later, assigned to the 7th Army in Sicily, they served as the aerial support to allied troops until the end of the war.

Respectably, this famed crew flew 3,840 missions from 1943 to 1945. While serving as the eyes of the military, they destroyed 44 enemy aircraft, damaged 20 and had 12 probable kills. Because of their valor, the 111th received eight Battle Stars, the Presidential Unit Citation as well as recognitions from the French Government.

In December 1945, they returned to Texas as the 111th Fighter Squadron. On Oct. 10, 1950, the 111th returned to battle for the Korean War. Throughout this 22-month theater, they became attached to the 136th Fighter Group. The Squadron again performed gallantly and destroyed 1,343 railroad cars, 1,943 buildings, 88 bridges, 126 gun emplacements, 89 boats, 2 MIG-15 fighters and participated in activities that resulted in 5,578 enemy troop casualties.

When foreign disagreements subsided, they were assigned to Air Defense Command on U.S. soil. Later, pilots from the Fighter Wing provided aerial support for American troops during the Vietnam Conflict from 1968–1970.

Following the events of September 11, 2001, the newly renamed 147th escorted President George W. Bush and his father on-board Air Force One back to Washington, DC. Later that year, they were deployed within the United States in support of Operation Noble Eagle.

The 147th was deployed in 2005 for Operation Iraqi Freedom and the Global War on Terror. Continuing the Squadron's noted performance during previous conflicts, pilots of the Fighter Wing flew 462 sorties, with 100 percent maintenance delivery, 100 percent mission effectiveness along with 100 percent weapons employment hits while under extremely challenging combat conditions.

Although the list of overseas wartime accomplishments for the 111th are many, so is the impact and assistance provided by the same men and women on a national level to local issues. Since 1989 the Fighter Wing pilots have utilized the C-26 Merlin to conduct counter-drug law enforcement missions throughout the area. Most recently, in response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the Squadron came to aid those in this area who needed it most. These fine Americans have and continue to provide tremendous service to the United States, the State of Texas and to the communities surrounding Ellington Field.

I am proud to recognize the many accomplishments of this great group of Texas patriots. On the 90th anniversary, I would like to recognize these brave men and women for their service to the United States. I am also privileged to have served at Ellington Field in the United States Air Force Reserve, 704th TAS, 924th Troop Carrier Group, 446th Troop Carrier Wing from 1970–1976.

And that's just the way it is.

IN HONOR OF SHREVE "MAC"
ARCHER III

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and many accomplishments of Shreve "Mac" Archer III, pediatrician, race driver, inventor, and my cousin. He passed away in June, 2007 after a long battle with leukemia.

Mac was born in St. Paul, MN, in September, 1948. He moved to California and attended the University of California at Santa Cruz and Claremont Men's College, finally obtaining his medical degree in 1979 at the University of Miami, Florida. As a pediatrician in Carmel, CA, he specialized in learning disabilities, attention deficit disorder, and behavioral problems. He was well known for treating, studying, and funding programs for shaken baby syndrome and traumatic brain and spinal injuries.

My cousin was equally well known on the racing circuit as a professional motorcycle racer, and later as a vintage car racer for 20 years in his beloved "Old Bertha," a bright red Cobra 427. Steve Earle, who founded the Monterey Historic Races 34 years ago, said of Mac: "He always drove as competitively as possible, but without losing his manners. He was a gentleman and a great guy, and everyone admired his driving."

Mac combined his knowledge of medicine and racing in a most creative way. His business, Entropy Racing and Impact Medical Technologies, created safety products for cars, motorcycles, and jets. He and his long-time friend Eric Bernhard designed such items as a helmet for the U.S. Air Force that lessens the impact experienced when ejecting from jets. They patented the idea of flexible armor and created a back protector that cushions the spinal cord, which is now standard gear for motorcycle racers and is being used more and more by street riders. They designed an air bag for motorcycle helmets that stabilizes the neck in a crash, and helped to design the extractable seat now used in Formula 1 racecars. At the time of his death he was working on a child's safety car seat that would move on tracks to reduce the g-load during a crash and also protect the head.

Madam Speaker, I honor the life of Shreve "Mac" Archer III, a man who combined his work and play in such a way as to make the world a better place for all of us. I know I speak for every Member of Congress in offering our condolences to his wife, Kim, and their sons Damon and Shreve IV. His passing leaves us sad for our own loss, but grateful for the life he shared with us.

GOLF COURSE PRESERVATION
AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2007

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the Golf Course Preservation and Modernization Act to renovate and modernize

the three National Park Service, NPS, golf courses in the District of Columbia. Several years of research, investigation and consulting on ways to improve these courses demonstrate this bill is necessary to turn around the deterioration of these unique and valuable Federal assets. Langston Golf Course, Rock Creek Golf Course, and East Potomac Golf Course are in desperate need of capital investment to maintain and preserve their historic features and to reverse decades of deterioration.

East Potomac Golf Course was built in 1920 and included three courses that accommodated all levels of play, with an 18-hole tournament level course and two nine-hole practice courses. East Potomac was initially segregated, with African Americans permitted to play only on Mondays. The course was desegregated in 1941 by the Secretary of the Interior, Harold Ickes, following pressure from an African American women golfers club, the Wake Robin Golf Club. Rock Creek Golf Course opened in 1923 as a nine-hole golf course and an additional nine holes were added to make Rock Creek an 18-hole tournament level course in 1926. Langston Golf Course opened in 1939 as a segregated golf facility for African Americans and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Langston was the home course to the Royal Golf Club and the Wake Robin Golf Club, the Nation's first clubs for African American men and women golfers respectively. Langston was named for John Mercer Langston, the first African American Congressman from Virginia elected in 1888. Originally a nine-hole course, Langston's expansion to an 18-hole course began in 1955, but was not completed until the mid-1980s.

The courses were built and have been administered by the NPS since the early 20th century for the enjoyment of the general public. However, despite their best efforts, NPS has had a constant struggle to maintain the courses. None has been modernized and all three courses have fallen into disrepair and lack the amenities necessary to serve the public today. As a result, they are underused considering their value to the public.

NPS was created by Congress to "... conserve the scenery and the natural and historical objects and the wild life therein, and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such a manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." (16 U.S.C. 1) However, NPS's own backlog of repairs, its chronic funding limitations, and the continuing use of concession contracts that are inappropriate for the unique capital investment required for golf courses militate against appropriate maintenance, historic preservation and the NPS mission "to leave them unimpaired for the public enjoyment." This bill will restore the original intent of Congress, consistent with this important NPS mission.

The three courses together constitute an undervalued public asset that, if appropriately funded, could be renovated and modernized, facilitating affordable recreation, attracting significantly more golfers, and perhaps producing new revenue for the United States Treasury. Unlike other NPS facilities, golf courses require unique and continuing significant capital investment to keep them not only maintained but operational. As a result for nearly 100

years, the courses have had problems associated with upkeep and insufficient capital investment. Without a ready source for capital investment, apart from appropriations, NPS has continuously struggled to manage and maintain each of these courses since their inception. There is no prospect that the necessary Federal funds for capital investment and improvement of golf will be available today or in the future. Moreover, the current fee to play at the golf courses, as established in the concessions contract process, must remain affordable and cannot generate sufficient revenue for NPS or the concessioners to keep the courses properly maintained, or to make the capital investment required for a golf course today. In fact, NPS owes millions of dollars to the concessioner of the golf courses for necessary improvements.

General Services Administration land and real estate professionals and other experts advise that the best option consistent with Federal law and practices is to create a long-term ground lease that bundles all three of the courses into a single contract and then to request proposals that allow for response with ideas and alternatives for modernization and maintenance consistent with anticipated use and affordability. This bill requires that historic features of the courses be preserved and that two of the three courses remain affordable to the general public.

The confines of Federal concession law inhibited NPS and the concessioner from making improvements to the courses because Federal concession laws are incompatible with golf course operations. Historically, the restrictions of NPS concessions law have been a direct cause of disrepair and capital disinvestment, reducing the quality of play and jeopardizing the historic preservation of the courses. However, the NPS is attempting to join two of the three golf courses together for the next 7 years under a proposed concession contract that was issued on October 23, 2007. The draft contract requires only that the next concessioner be able to perform routine repair and maintenance consistent with NPS practice and the limits imposed by concession law. The draft contract does not and could not impose any requirement that capital improvements be made to the courses, usually guaranteeing

that these courses will stay in the same poor condition until 2015. East Potomac was excluded from the proposed concession contract because its concession contract expires next year, not for any reason associated with maintaining and improving the courses for public use. This separates East Potomac, the only financially viable golf course from Langston and Rock Creek, the two that need subsidy for their operations. The effect will leave Langston and Rock Creek worse off than they are today.

This bill would exempt these golf courses from concession law and bind the three courses into one contract. This approach applies another vehicle commonly used by the Federal Government to allow for more creative solutions consistent with the NPS mission to preserve general public access and preserve the historic qualities of the courses. The single long-term ground lease for all three courses, designed outside of the constraints of concession law, provided by this bill would encourage private investment in these courses, improve the quality of the courses, ensure affordable play, and preserve their historic nature.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

FLOOR CONSIDERATION OF THE
MINE COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY
INNOVATION ACT OF
2007

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 29, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, as a cosponsor, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3877, the Mine Communications Technology Innovation Act, which was introduced by our colleague from Utah, Mr. MATHESON.

Mining is an important part of our history and it will be critical to our future as well, but we have seen too many mining accidents that have ended in tragedy. Too often, these tragedies have been related to difficulties with communication. The unfortunate deaths of six min-

ers and three rescuers at the Crandall Canyon Mine this year has highlighted the severe communication challenges that miners face when deep underground.

While mines generally use reliable communications systems, some mines—specifically, deep underground mines—present a number of unique challenges that make communications and tracking more difficult. For example, the open air pathway required for radio signals and WiFi often do not exist in underground mines and less than ten percent of the radio spectrum that is used above ground can be used underground. Additionally, in the event of a catastrophic event, existing communications systems are often compromised.

This bill would help improve tracking and communications systems for two-way communication between the miners and people above ground. Specifically, H.R. 3877 would accelerate the research and development of innovative mine tracking and communications technologies. Since the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) addresses oversight of immediately available technologies, this legislation is targeted R&D for new technologies to advance our ability to communicate underground. Under this legislation, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) would establish an initiative to promote the research, development, and demonstration of miner tracking and communications systems and to promote the establishment of standards and other measurement services regarding underground miners.

Not only will this legislation help miners, but it will draw upon the expertise of Colorado researchers. NIST's Boulder labs have already begun similar work for communications in collapsed buildings and are well positioned to support this new effort with its experience in developing technical standards, best practices and conformance testing.

This bill will ensure that our miners have the state-of-the-art equipment they need to communicate with people above ground, especially in times of emergency. I urge the House to support this important legislation that will help us save lives in the future.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, November 1, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

NOVEMBER 5

3 p.m.

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine the twenty-first century security in the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) region, focusing on challenges among member states, protracted and unresolved conflicts, shifting political and military alliances, while still confronting the threat of terrorism.

2212-RHOB

NOVEMBER 6

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the efficacy of the domestic energy industry, focusing on its available workforce to meet our nation's growing needs.

SD-366

Judiciary

Business meeting to continue consideration of the nomination of Michael B. Mukasey, of New York, to be Attorney General.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Finance

Social Security, Pensions and Family Policy Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Government Pension Offset (GPO), and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), focusing on policies affecting pensions from work not covered by Social Security.

SD-215

NOVEMBER 7

9:30 a.m.

Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Business meeting to markup an original bill entitled, "Small Business Contracting Revitalization Act of 2007".

SR-428A

Veterans' Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the performance and structure of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans.

SD-562

10 a.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the United States government enforcement of intellectual property rights.

SD-226

Rules and Administration

To hold hearings to examine the Government Accountability Office report focusing on funding challenges and facilities maintenance at the Smithsonian Institution.

SR-301

1:30 p.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine sovereign wealth fund acquisitions and other foreign government investments in the United States, focusing on economic and national security implications.

SD-538

NOVEMBER 8

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine ways to protect the employment rights of those who protect the United States.

SD-430

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine the employment-unemployment situation for November 2007.

SH-216

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

National Parks Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 86, to designate segments of Fossil Creek, a trib-

utary to the Verde River in the State of Arizona, as wild and scenic rivers, S. 1365, to amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into cooperative agreements with any of the management partners of the Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area, S. 1449, to establish the Rocky Mountain Science Collections Center to assist in preserving the archeological, anthropological, paleontological, zoological, and geologic artifacts and archival documentation from the Rocky Mountain region through the construction of an on-site, secure collections facility for the Denver Museum of Nature and Science in Denver, Colorado, S. 1921, to amend the American Battlefield Protection Act of 1996 to extend the authorization for that Act, S. 1941, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the Wolf House, located in Norfolk, Arkansas, as a unit of the National Park System, S. 1961, to expand the boundaries of the Little River Canyon National Preserve in the State of Alabama, S. 1991, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the suitability and feasibility of extending the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail to include additional sites associated with the preparation and return phases of the expedition, S. 2098, to establish the Northern Plains Heritage Area in the State of North Dakota, S. 2220, to amend the Outdoor Recreation Act of 1963 to authorize certain appropriations, and H.R. 1191, to authorize the National Park Service to pay for services rendered by subcontractors under a General Services Administration Indefinite Deliver Indefinite Quantity Contract issued for work to be completed at the Grand Canyon National Park.

SD-366

NOVEMBER 13

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (Public Law 95-87), focusing on policy issues thirty years later.

SD-366